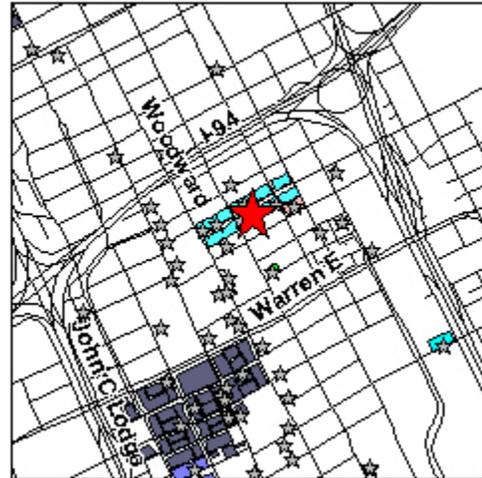


East Ferry Avenue Historic District

General boundaries: East Ferry Avenue between Woodward Avenue and Brush.

Local	✓	7/17/81
State	✓	2/14/76
State Marker		
National	✓	3/10/80



Inns on East Ferry

Historic overview:

The East Ferry Avenue Historic District is significant as an intact, turn-of-the-century, upper class, residential streetscape illustrating a variety of architectural styles popular from the 1880s through the first decades of the twentieth century. East Ferry Avenue was developed in the mid-1880s when the lots belonging to the D.M. Ferry Seed Company were subdivided and sold. The lots facing Woodward were quite expensive because of the prestigious address. However, the land on the first blocks off Woodward were considerably less expensive, and side streets were quickly settled by prosperous middle and upper middle class professionals. Woodward has since been redeveloped for commercial purposes, yet a small cluster of mansions still survives around East Ferry Avenue to recall its residential grandeur.

The residences on East Ferry between Woodward and Brush exemplify domestic elegance in the 1880s and 1890s. Houses are fairly close together, set back from the street, and are on relatively small lots. Many still retain the matching carriage house. Generally these are Queen Anne dwellings of brick and sandstone with bay windows or turrets and wide front porches. Ferry Avenue east of Brush changes in character to more modest middleclass single-family houses and multi-family dwellings.

The houses in this district are some of the least altered residential work of Detroit's leading architects of the late nineteenth century. Although not the largest commissions, most architects of the period prospered by designing residences for upper middleclass patrons. East Ferry Avenue preserves an interesting array of these houses.

